was increased from 30 to 45 minutes whereas the telecast fee and free commercial time were doubled. Since substantially more income accrues to the Producer from free commercial time, it amounted to loss of revenue to Doordarshan. At that stage the Doordarshan authorities however took the view that there was no real loss. While increasing the timings of the programme from 30 minutes to 45 minutes, the telecast fee was doubled while the free commercial time was increased from 120 seconds to 240 seconds in the same ratio. Doordarshan earned a revenue for 15 episodes on this basis at Rs. 10.14 lakhs per episode. However, with effect from 14.1.1996 the alternative system was applied wherein for the increase of timing from 30 to 45 minutes the telecast fees was increased by one and a half times from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 4.5 lakhs and free commercial time was increased from 120 seconds to 180 seconds. For 15 episodes on this basis the revenue, in fact, declined to Rs. 7.11 lakhs per episode. In the opinion of Doordarshan actually it did not show loss of revenue.

The Prasar Bharati Board had appointed Shri Arjun Agrawal, an outside expert, to look into certain cases which included the case of serial 'Sri Krishna'. The reports submitted by Shri Arjun Agrawal in April, 1999 were considered by the Board in June, 1999 and the Board decided that the Government may request CAG to conduct a quick special audit, inter alia, relating to 'Shri Krishna'. On receiving reference from CEO, Prasar Bharati a request was accordingly made in August, 1999 to CAG to conduct a special audit in this regard. The CAG advised on September 27, 1999 that his organization had already audited the matter relating to 'Shri Krishna' and report had been submitted in 1997, therefore, CAG stated that no special audit in this matter is again called for. However, in all other cases referred, the CAG is conducting an audit.

Uplinking Facilities on C-band to Indian Companies

†572. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow free uplinking facility on C-band to Indian companies entering broadcasting business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARJUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No Sir, Indian companies who are broadcasters and having minimum 80% Indian equity holding with Indian management control, have been permitted either to uplink (in 'C' Band only) through VSNL or by setting up their own uplink Earth Station. In such cases, WPC Wing of Deptt. of Telecommunication have been charging lincence and royalty fee and VSNL, where involved, is charging service fee as per norms.

Losses suffered by NFDC

†573. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly loss suffered by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) during the last two years and the loss suffered so far, during the current financial year;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Corporation also was owes crores of rupees to Government electronic media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARJUN JAITLEY): (a) National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not suffered any loss during the year 1997-98. The Corporation earned a net profit of Rs. 4.30 crores during the year. However, for the year 1998-99 the company suffered a net loss of Rs. 10.57 crores as per the provisional un-audited accounts of the Corporation. The performance for the current financial year 1999-2000 (upto 30th September, 1999) has been satisfactory with the company making a net profit of Rs. 2.34 crores (figures provisional and subject to audit).

(b) The reasons for the losses suffered by the Corporation during 1998-1999 were the recessionary pressures in the market coupled with stiff competition from private satellite channels which adversely affected the company's major revenue earning activity viz. Television (FCT) Marketing. As a result the Television Marketing Activity failed to generate sufficient revenue to cover cost.